


# Instructional Technology Newsline

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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## Instructional Technology Staff (573) 751-8247

<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/newsletters>

-  [Deborah S. Sutton](#), Director
-  [Claranne Vogel](#), Supervisor
-  [Lisa Walters](#), Library Media and Technology Consultant
-  [Rosalyn Wieberg](#), Supervisor
-  [Shirley Brumley](#), Administrative Assistant

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## **Instructional Technology Update**

### FY03 Technology Grants

No new developments. The current budget continues to allow for a 74% reimbursement rate.

### **District Technology Plans**

#### **Countdown to March 31, 2003 Deadline**

As reported in previous months, over 400 districts must submit technology plans for state approval this spring. This large number is a result of several factors.

- The three-year approval cycle was established in 1997, making 2003 the next resubmission year.
- Title IID established new requirements for district technology plans. By law, districts are to submit new or substantially updated plans and receive state approval before they can apply for the Ed Tech Program funds. However, the Department was allowed to issue a one-year waiver – that expires June 30, 2003.
- Districts with plans submitted and approved in 2001, using the “old” scoring guide, must submit a new plan unless the 2001 plan was approved with a score of 8 of 8.

Districts can access the new scoring guide and technology planning assistance resources on the web at <http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/techplan.htm>.

### **METPA-Assisted Workshops**

Instructional Technology and METPA presented seven workshops on “Writing a School Technology Plan” in mid November. Over 400 educators representing 300 districts, three charter schools, nine private schools, and five RPDCs and institutions of higher education attended these workshops.

### **USF E-rate Program**

#### Year 5 (2002) Funding

To date, Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) has released sixteen waves of commitment letters and funded nearly \$1.5 billion in discounts. While SLD has determined that all eligible internal connections applicants at the 90% level will receive full funding, it has not yet determined whether internal connections applicants below 90% will receive full or partial funding.

#### Year 6 (2003) Applications

The Year 6 application window opened on November 4, 2002 and will close on January 16, 2003. The Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of USAC launched a new online Form 471 in a PDF format in order to streamline the application process. However, after two weeks of reported complaints, SLD announced on November 14 that it was pulling down the PDF version from its website and reverting to using last year’s online form. SLD has extended the deadline for the Funding year 2003 Form 471 filing window to February 6, 2003. For more information on this Year 6 filing issue, please go to:

<http://www.sl.universalservice.org/whatsnew/112002.asp#111402>.

### MOREnet E-rate Workshops

In October, MOREnet provided training sessions on the E-rate program. These sessions were intended as an introduction to the program. During this training, participants received an overview of the program, including eligible services, the application process and the forms required by the program. Form 471 was covered in depth to provide the knowledge needed to complete an application this fall. The training materials can be accessed at <http://www.more.net/services/e-rate/training2002.html>. Materials include:

[E-rate Program Overview and Application Process](#) (PowerPoint File; 294 KB), [Form 471 Online Submission](#) (PowerPoint File; 5.6 MB), [Application Checklist](#), and [E-rate Overview](#) (PDF File; 196 KB).

## Urban Institute Report

The Urban Institute recently published a draft of their study of the E-Rate program, entitled "A Formative Evaluation of the E-Rate Program." Studying applicants in the program's first two years, the authors found that not only were poor and rural school districts receiving a large share of E-Rate funds, but also that the influx of E-Rate funding has "led to statistically significant increases in the availability of digital technology reported by E-Rate districts that received discounts in both years, including the fraction of schools and libraries connected to the Internet, the speed of their Internet connections, and the number of Internet connections per student." However, the report cautions that schools in poor and rural communities have made less effective use of the Internet and digital technologies than their wealthier counterparts. It suggests that policymakers consider instituting a more streamlined application process, expanding the types of services, hardware and software that the program's discounts can support, and encouraging districts to better coordinate all available federal, state, local, and private resources to more effectively use technology. The full report can be found at: <http://www.urban.org>.

## **Missouri Technology Leadership Academy -- Slots Still Available For TLA3**

SuccessLink, in cooperation with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, sponsors the "Technology Leadership Academy" for Missouri. The Academy assists administrators in developing the knowledge and skills necessary to use technology as a tool for more effective and efficient leadership in their schools. This program is open to all Missouri head building principals and superintendents (public and non-public schools). To learn more about the TLA and to register online, visit <http://successlink.org/tla/>.

## **Monica Beglau and eMINTS Featured at the SETDA National Leadership Institute on Evaluation**

The State Educational Technology Directors Association invited Monica Beglau, MOREnet, to serve as an expert resource for the SETDA National Leadership Institute (NLI) on Evaluation that will be held December 8-10 in Arlington, Virginia. The NLI is an intensive hands-on workshop structured to produce deliverables that will aid state technology leaders in effectively implementing the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Work groups will be built around the following topics: scientifically-based research, technology literacy assessment, common data elements, evaluating effective teaching and learning, and national education technology plan. SETDA invited Monica Beglau to serve as an expert for the scientifically-based research group. The following eMINTS evaluation report series will be featured: "Leadership Orientations of FY00 eMINTS Principals," "Analysis of 2001 MAP Results for eMINTS Students," and "Hallmarks of an Effective eMINTS Classroom."

## **National Center for Education Statistics Releases Handbook: Technology in Schools: Suggestions, Tools and Guidelines for Assessing Technology in Elementary and Secondary Education**

The USDOE, NCES, and the Forum on Educational Statistics have released the PDF version of Technology in Schools: Suggestions, Tools and Guidelines for Assessing Technology in Elementary and Secondary Education. The Handbook "is designed to help decision makers and technology users prepare, collect and assess information about whether and how technology is being used in their school systems." The document focuses on several key questions and provides corresponding indicators and data elements for each question. SETDA's Data Collection

Committee and contractor, the Metiri Group, are utilizing this document as they work to develop a set of common data elements for educational technology. The Handbook can be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2003/2003313.pdf>.



## **Scientifically-Based Research Recommendations Released**

The Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy, a collaborative initiative between the USDOE, William T. Grant Foundation, Council for Excellence in Government, and other individuals from a broad range of policy areas, issued a report setting out a strategy to increase “evidence based” research in education. The report calls for the Department of Education to fund and encourage “scientifically-based” studies, specifically those that randomly assign students to treatment and control groups in order to establish teaching methods that are effective in American classrooms. Additionally, it provides the Department with several recommendations as to how research should be conducted and funded to provide the “scientifically-based research” required by the No Child Left Behind Act.

According to the report, randomized controlled trials are the key to national K-12 educational improvement. The Coalition notes that pre-post designs and comparison-group designs are much more common in educational research, despite recent proof that such methods can produce erroneous conclusions. The report recalls the success of randomized trials within education, as well as in medicine, employment and welfare policy. The full report can be found at <http://www.excelgov.org/displayContent.asp?Keyword=prppcEvidence>.



## **Show-Me TechKnowledge 2003**

--Submitted by Bobbi Weekley, 2003 Show-Me TechKnowledge Chairperson

The second annual Show-Me TechKnowledge Day will be held on February 26, 2003 from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., in the Capitol Rotunda on the third floor in Jefferson City. This is an opportunity for educators and students to showcase learning through technology to invited Missouri legislators, students, parents and visitors.

Fourteen schools from across the state will be chosen to display outstanding technology projects currently being used in Missouri classrooms to enhance learning and improve student achievement. A cross section of districts and technology uses is being sought. Application deadline is December 6, 2002. Visit the Show-Me TechKnowledge Application link to apply. See [Application](#). Contact [Bobbi Weekley @ computerhelp@ktis.net](mailto:Bobbi Weekley @ computerhelp@ktis.net) for more information about this year's event.



## **Videoconferencing Through MOREnet**

--Submitted by Eric Nicklas, Program Manager, K-12 Technology Network Program, MOREnet

MOREnet provides videoconferencing services to its customers. MOREnet's website ([www.more.net/technical/video/](http://www.more.net/technical/video/)) contains information on many aspects of videoconferencing supplied by MOREnet's Video Consulting group. “Tips for Successful Videoconferencing” (<http://www.more.net/technical/video/newuser/successtips.html>) explains the need for practice before production, offers general troubleshooting hints and emphasizes the need to create contingency plans.

MOREnet also provides information for those interested in or just getting started with videoconferencing. The information at <http://www.more.net/technical/video/newuser/newcustomers.html>

details requirements for video service from MOREnet; addresses network connection and equipment configuration issues; offers hints for classroom organization; and gives preparation tips for the beginning of each videoconference event.

For questions or assistance with videoconferencing, contact MOREnet Technical Support at (800) 509-6673 or e-mail [techsupp@more.net](mailto:techsupp@more.net) and indicate you need assistance with videoconferencing.

### **Columbia Public Schools Wins National School Boards Association Award for Leadership in Technological Infrastructure**

The National School Boards Association has chosen Columbia Public Schools as one of its 2002 Technology + Learning Salute districts. An initiative of the organization's ITTE: Education Technology Programs, the T + L program recognizes three Technology Leadership Network (TLN) districts for exemplary practices in improving teaching and learning environments. ITTE showcased Columbia Public Schools in a Video Salute at its 2002 Technology + Learning Conference. The conference took place November 13-15 in Dallas, Texas at the Dallas Convention Center.

The Columbia School District earned its District Salute by adhering to the concept that a district's technology goal can only be as good as its network infrastructure. The district has partnered with the city of Columbia to develop fiber connectivity between all 28 of the district buildings. The fiber network connects schools to the administrative AS400 system that handles attendance, grades and scheduling, and the district has also run its phone system over the network, saving more than \$125,000 a year in reduced phone costs. Finally the fiber connectivity allows teachers to call up approximately 1,500 digital videos from a central server by using their computers and a data projector.

The new district-wide initiative has involved placing phone service in every classroom. This new system provides an added safety factor by allowing teachers to contact the principal's office quickly. Teachers can also easily communicate with parents and pick up voice mail from home or at school.

Columbia Public Schools has also partnered with a local cable company to operate an educational access channel with an audience of 20,000 households, which also provides an authentic forum for broadcast journalism students. In addition, the district uses several software programs to track student progress and for communicating with parents. Examples are InteGrade, a grading software that allows users to input grades and generate reports, and Tetra Data, which is used to store national and state test scores.

"Most schools would hesitate to commit their funds to a technological framework like Columbia's, but the investment has led to greater efficiency and faster resources for all key members of the school system," said Ann Lee Flynn, Ed.D., the director of education technology at NSBA. "We're holding Columbia as an example of the overall benefits that are reaped when taking the time and effort to plan and implement a suitable technological framework."

### **Technology Boosts Kirbyville Into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** *--Submitted by April Hawkins, Kirbyville Middle School Principal*

Kirbyville School, a K-8 district located just a few miles east of Branson on Hwy. 76, has been one of the best-kept secrets in Missouri public education. This 483-student Taney County School District, is leading the way in technological advances in public education.

According to school superintendent, Jerry Parrett, "Data reflects that students in eMints classrooms across the state score higher on the MAP, therefore there's an edge, and we want the edge." Through the eMINTS program, students are learning to use technology as a tool to facilitate inquiry-based learning. The students are excited and motivated to learn because they are finding the answers to their own questions.

April Hawkins, Kirbyville's middle school principal concurs, "The eMints program, through active engagement in the educational process, inspires our students as they experience learning through cutting edge teaching modalities."

As reported on the front page article recently featured in the *Springfield Newsleader*, the school district will have a ratio of 1.4 students to every Internet ready computer next year in comparison to the state's average of one computer for every 4.2 students (According to the 2001 Census of Missouri Technology).

Each fifth grade student at Kirbyville has their own laptop computer at their fingertips to navigate throughout their teacher designed web quests. Students also surf the net from the predetermined sites incorporated into a hot list, which is designed by their teacher, and then used for student research. Students can also utilize class websites to access educational information from home.

"It allows our students to maximize resources at the touch of a keyboard and take their learning to higher levels of thinking," said Hawkins. "Technology is motivating our students to become a community of learners by sharing what they've learned with family members."

After passing a bond issue in November, the district will expand the laptop setup into the fourth grade next year. Third grade students will inherit the current fourth grade eMints classrooms. These classrooms consist of one personal computer for every two students, a smartboard, scanner, digital camera, network printer, and a teacher workstation.

"Our students are proficient participants in the information age," added Kirbyville elementary principal, Addie Gaines. "Technology has been fully integrated in grades kindergarten through eighth, with a significant emphasis on grades three and up," Parrett stated. Prior to 1998, the district had only 35 older, mismatched computers. The district has now grown to maintain over 200 Gateway computers less than three years old, with another 50 projected for purchase next year. This includes having state-of-the art computer labs at both the elementary and the middle school, mini-labs in the two communication arts classrooms at the middle school, and other classroom computers equipped with t.v.ators throughout the buildings.

"Technology is a vehicle which allows Kirbyville Schools to achieve our mission that students will acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes through a progressive, quality education, to be self-respecting, self-sufficient, contributing members of the rapidly changing world in which we live," announced Parrett.

Along with providing the resources, school officials are committed to professional development for the teachers. Technology has been the focus for in-service this year. "We are having our in-house trained faculty members facilitate the instruction for the rest of the faculty and staff," said Parrett. "We are using the hands-on approach ourselves as we participate in the training." Teachers come prepared to in-service with disks, ideas, and information ready to be put to use in things such as, PowerPoint presentations, hot lists, web quests, class web pages, etc. The goal for teachers is to leave the day's training feeling more equipped to use our technology and produce teaching tools. At the end of the day, teachers have accomplished finished or near finished products that they can take back and put to use immediately into their classrooms.

"Technology has been a catalyst to spark our teachers into taking their creative ideas to another level of teaching," Hawkins exclaimed.

Currently, Kirbyville is being considered for the Commissioner's Award in Professional Development by being in the top twenty percent of schools meeting the established criteria. Academically, Kirbyville has posted perfect scores on Annual Performance Report in the last two annual state performance reviews and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has recently recognized the district for receiving accreditation with distinction in Performance. For additional information contact Jerry Parrett at [ctc002@mail.connect.more.net](mailto:ctc002@mail.connect.more.net)

## **Missouri Schools and Programs in the News**

### eMINTS Teachers and Districts Recognized

#### St. Louis

Peabody Elementary School of St. Louis Public Schools received the Microsoft "Circle of Excellence" award in November 2002. The school will receive a Tablet PC, some software and the right to purchase Microsoft products at a discount. Peabody Elementary has four eMINTS classrooms. Congratulations!

#### East Carter

<http://www.ecarter.k12.mo.us/dept/elementary/fourthgrade/ccrites/>

Congratulations! Mrs. Crites, a fourth grade teacher in East Carter and a first year eMINTS teacher was recognized as a Golden Web Award winner for 2002-2003 for her classroom website. Check it out!

#### Columbia, North Kansas City and Sullivan C-2

eMINTS teachers and districts recognized at National School Boards Association Conference: Congratulations to the Columbia Public Schools for receiving a "Salute Award" from the National School Board Association at the 2002 Technology+Learning Conference in Dallas. The district was recognized for their successful integration of technology across many district programs. The eMINTS program was one of their accomplishments along with technology programs at the Career Center for high school students. A team from Columbia, including Denise LaTorre from Parkade Elementary School's eMINTS classrooms was present to receive the award and recognition. Two other eMINTS districts were recognized at the conference: North Kansas City's Director of Technology, Janet Herdman, was part of a panel at the Technology Leadership Network session on wireless applications and Sharon Sumner, eMINTS from Sullivan C-2 School District, gave a presentation called "Integrated Technology: Key to High Stakes Testing."

## **Copyright Question of the Month**

- Q.** May an educator (e.g. administrator, classroom teacher, substitute teacher, or student teacher) other district employee, volunteer, or others upload a student project containing allowable portions of copyrighted materials onto a network server?
- A. No** The student is not the copyright owner of the entire project. The student must obtain permission from all copyright holders before the work may be placed on the network server.

Note: the student project may be used **only** with the class and/or class members for which it was created unless permission is obtained for the copyrighted portions.





## Mark Your Calendar

### SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE IT STAFF

December 1	Newsline published online
6	2003 Show-Me TechKnowledge applications due
12	Show-Me TechKnowledge Executive Committee meets to review applications
12	MO Rural Opportunities Council Telecommunications/Education Committee Meeting (1:15-3:30 pm)
24	Newsline articles due
25	Christmas Day—State offices closed
January 1	New Year's Day—State offices closed
3	Newsline published online
9	MO Rural Opportunities Council Telecommunications/Education Committee Meeting (1:15-3:30 pm)
9	Technology Plan Writing Technical Assistance at Harry S Truman Bldg, Jefferson City, Room 490, 12:00-4:00



## Upcoming 2003 Conferences

January 27-29	Midwest Education & Teaching Conference Millennium Hotel, St. Louis
February 3-5	Cooperating School Districts Ohio SchoolNet Technology Conference 2003 Columbus, Ohio <a href="http://www.osn.state.oh.us">http://www.osn.state.oh.us</a>
February 4-6	2003 Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC) Orlando, Florida <a href="http://www.fetc.org">http://www.fetc.org</a>
February 19-21	New Technologies in Training and Technical Skills Orlando, Florida <a href="http://www.salt.org">http://www.salt.org</a>
February 19-25	Interface Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
February 25-27	K-12 School Networking Conference: Achievement, Assessment & Accountability Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, VA
March 4-5	RCET-SW Conference University Plaza, Springfield, MO <a href="http://www.rcet.net">www.rcet.net</a>
March 17-19	Microcomputers in Education Conference Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona <a href="http://mec.asu.edu">http://mec.asu.edu</a>
March 19-20	MOREnet Spring Technical Conference Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO Missouri Research and Education Network
March 19-20	HELIX (Higher Education Learning & Information eXchange) Conference Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO
June 30-July 2	MERC (Missouri Education & Research Consortium) NECC Seattle, WA





## From the Mailbag

### Missouri Quarter Winner Unveiled

<http://www.gov.state.mo.us/firstlady/quarter.html>

The final quarter design, chosen by over 217,000 Missourians who voted online, in schools and in the State Capitol Building was unveiled by First Lady Lori Hauser Holden on November 22, 2002. The winning design was the "Corps of Discovery" concept featuring the St. Louis Arch and three men paddling down the river in a canoe. The state submitted five design concepts to the U.S. Mint, who made some adaptations to ensure the best-looking quarter possible. The winning concept was created by Paul Jackson, an artist from Columbia.

### Apple-Education-X for Teachers

<http://www.apple.com/education/macosexforteachers/>

Apple wants to provide every K-12 teacher in the United States with a free copy of Mac OS X v10.2 "jaguar." This program is designed to show teachers the stability and manageability of Mac OS X and how it gives them a powerful foundation for integrating technology into their classrooms. From now through December 31, 2002, qualifying teachers can order online their free 'X for Teachers Kit,' which provides everything a teacher needs to learn and become comfortable with Mac OS X.

### Computer FAQs

<http://www.amicron.com/cfw/cfw98/>

Tips and Tricks monthly newsletters address frequently asked questions covering Word, Excel, Access, Powerpoint and more. To get on the distribution list request document W209011.

### Young Inventors Awards Program

[www.nsta.org/programs/craftsman](http://www.nsta.org/programs/craftsman)

Craftsman/NSTA Young Inventors Awards Program is a children's invention competition for kids in grades 2-8, administered by the National Science Teachers Association sponsored by Sears, Roebuck and Co. The program challenges students to use creativity and imagination along with science, technology, and mechanical ability to invent or modify a tool. This activity can be used for kids as an after school project or as an in-class project. For entry materials and/or a teacher's guide, please call 1-888-494-4994 or e-mail [younginventors@nsta.org](mailto:younginventors@nsta.org).

### Edline-The "One-Click" Web Publishing System

[www.edline.com](http://www.edline.com)

For schools that seek the benefits of providing families with online access to teacher generated information: grades, homework, teacher web pages, school news, and more from home--but don't want the hassle of setting up and managing additional web servers, databases, or security - Edline is a turn-key, parent-teacher communications solution that can have teachers up and running in minutes.

With Edline, you can instantly create an online presence with secure parent logins, homework and grades, as well as web pages and calendars for every teacher (with easy tools for school or district oversight) - and it all synchronizes with the rosters, IDs, and student demographics already in your student management software.

Edline is easy for teachers. To add content to a web page, teachers type into Edline or attach a file created on their computer. Moreover, most major gradebooks such as GradeQuick, Easy Grade Pro, and Making the Grade, are already Edline compatible, so teachers can securely publish grades with one click from the software they already know.

In addition to making teacher's information available to families on the web, Edline also includes mass email and parental email alert features to really keep families in the loop.

Source: Washington Missourian

#### US Fares Well On International Comparisons

<http://www.com/2002/EDUCATION/10/30/us.education.comparison.ap/index.html>

U.S. students have better access to computers than students in virtually all other industrialized countries, according to a report from Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Five students in the United States share each school computer, on average; in other developed countries, the average is 13 students per computer.

Source: CNN.com

#### China and US Agree On E-Language Project

<http://ott.educ.msu.edu/elanguage/>

The U.S. and China have agreed to work together to build a free, web-based system that will help students and educators learn a second language. The beginning with English and Chinese language resources, E-Language Learning System (ELLS) will be targeted at students 12-18 years of age.

Source: US Department of Education

#### Assessment, Assessment Rubrics and Evaluation Guidelines

[http://www.techlearning.com/db\\_area/archives/WCE/archives/evalguid.html](http://www.techlearning.com/db_area/archives/WCE/archives/evalguid.html)

For assessment tips and tools, and for help in developing, adapting, or adopting assessments that detail what you expect students to learn and evaluate what they have mastered for any given lesson, visit the web sites in this Web Tour.

#### NCES Issues Suggestions for Assessing Technology

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2002/2002212.pdf>

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has just published "Technology in Schools: Suggestions, Tools and Guidelines for Assessing Technology in Elementary and Secondary Education." The guide is designed to create a resource for educators and policy makers who must assess the need for, and the effects of, technology in schools. The guide is organized around key questions that the Technology in Schools Task Force authors have determined to be central, pertaining to the type, availability, and use of technology in education systems. The key questions are grouped into seven primary topics: technology planning and policies; finance; equipment and infrastructure; technology applications; maintenance and support; professional development; and technology integration. Among other things, the guide makes some suggestions for appropriate data that could be collected by policy makers and school leaders to measure different components of technology implementation.

#### Florida Study of Educational Technology 2002

<http://www.doe.firn.edu/edtech/fset/downloads/FSETReport.pdf>

The Florida Study gathered and analyzed information about educational technology projects in Florida schools that address curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional development. School educational technology projects generally focused on student learning and particularly on the basic skills.

Source: Florida Department of Education

#### Technology Supports Guidance Counselors

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=06counselor.h22>

Technology tools are helping guidance counselors deal with the increased demands associated with greater numbers of students and increasing amounts of data. That need is expected to grow even more pressing with the passage of No Child Left Behind, which requires schools to collect and analyze even more data.

Source: Education Week

#### Engaging Families and the Community in Reading/Technology Integration

[http://www.techlearning.com/db\\_area/archives/WCE/archives/judybend.html](http://www.techlearning.com/db_area/archives/WCE/archives/judybend.html)

Engaging families and the communities was an important component of a recent grant program. The results demonstrated surprising expertise and leadership of many children who had been identified as students with learning or behavior disabilities.

#### The Home and School Dilemma

[http://www.techlearning.com/db\\_area/archives/WCE/archives/paulas2.html](http://www.techlearning.com/db_area/archives/WCE/archives/paulas2.html)

As home schooling gains widespread acceptance as a means of educating children, this phenomenon is expected to increase as much as 15%-20% per year. Is it possible to educate a student at home so he or she is prepared to meet the challenges of the digital age?



### **Internet Sites of Interest**

#### Online Projects

##### Global Grocery List Project

[http://www.landmark-project.com/ggl/us\\_list.html](http://www.landmark-project.com/ggl/us_list.html)

Now in its 12th year, this project has appeal to all ages. Students share local grocery prices to build a growing table of data to be used in social studies, science, health, mathematics, and other disciplines.

#### Newest eThemes

##### Animals: Chickens

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000855.html>

These sites have many facts about chickens, including their diet, behavior, life cycle, feathers, and breeds. Watch a time-lapse video of a chicken hatching, complete the online jigsaw puzzle, or try one of the many egg activities.

#### Missouri: Great Flood of 1993

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000831.html>

Learn more about the 1993 floods in the Midwest. These sites include images of the river before and during the floods, hands-on activities, and a lot of factual information about the damages and costs. There are links to eThemes Resources on floods and the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers.

#### Food: Unusual Dishes From Around the World

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000817.html>

These sites introduce a variety of foods from other countries that some Americans might find strange. These include dishes made from monkey brains, insects, and snakes. Includes some photographs and recipes. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on recipes from around the world.

#### French Revolution

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000828.html>

Learn more about the French Revolution and its causes and effects. These sites are geared toward high school students and include timelines, primary documents, and paintings. Read letters from Marie Antoinette and listen to songs from the time period. There is also a link to an eThemes Resource on France.

#### Writing: Alliteration, Idioms, and Hyperbole

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000804.html>

Learn how to use different types of figurative language to improve your descriptive writing. Includes definitions and many classroom activity ideas for each topic. There are links to eThemes Resources on personification, and similes and metaphors.

#### Animals: Foxes

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000862.html>

These sites have information about several different types of foxes. Learn about their physical characteristics and habitats. View photographs, short videos, and take an online quiz. Includes stories, legends, and myths about foxes.

#### Animals: Wolves

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000868.html>

Learn about different species of wolves and find out how they differ from other animals in the canine family. Listen to their howls, learn what their different postures mean, and view illustrations of their tracks. Also, read about the controversy over reintroducing wolves into national parks.

#### Economics: Taxes

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000863.html>

These sites explain the U.S. taxation system and how it works. Learn about the different types of taxes through classroom activities and discussion questions. Also covers the services that local, state, and federal governments provide with tax money. Includes an online concentration game about taxes.

#### Literature: "The Call of the Wild" by Jack London

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000824.html>

These sites are about the novel and author Jack London. There are author biographies, book summaries, lesson plans, and several study guides with suggested activities. Also includes online quizzes and audio and video clips. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on the Iditarod.

#### Writing: Research Papers

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000851.html>

These sites focus on the steps involved in writing a research paper. Learn how to brainstorm a topic, organize information, use transition words, and write bibliographies. There are tips and handouts on how to evaluate online sources, plus links to child-safe search engines. Includes links to eThemes Resources on online resources and graphic organizers.

#### Baseball: Overview

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000841.html>

These sites offer an introduction to the sport of baseball. Read about the history of baseball and how the game is played. Visit the National Baseball Hall of Fame to learn about famous players. Includes interactive baseball games and math baseball games. There are links to eThemes Resources on the St. Louis Cardinals and the Negro League.

#### Literature: "Caddie Woodlawn" by Carol Ryrie Brink

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000881.html>

These sites are about the book "Caddie Woodlawn" and author Carol Ryrie Brink. Read about the history of the story and the person who inspired it. See the town in Wisconsin that serves as the book's setting. Includes online quizzes and activity ideas. There is also a link to eThemes Resources on quilting, pioneer food, and the Civil War.

#### Literature: Cinderella Stories

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000849.html>

Read online Cinderella stories from around the world. Includes the Chinese, Romanian, English, Scottish, and Native American versions. There are handouts and lesson plans for studying Cinderella tales and comparing the similarities and differences of each.

#### Literature: "Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes" by Eleanor Coerr

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000871.html>

These sites include suggested activities for the book "Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes" and author Eleanor Coerr. There is information on the statues created in honor of Sadako. View photographs of Hiroshima, Japan, after the atomic bomb attack, follow directions for making

paper cranes, listen to songs about Sadako, and have students participate in a skit based on the book. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on Japan.

#### Space: Universe

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000860.html>

These sites have information about the universe, the Milky Way, and other galaxies. Learn about the different types of galaxies. View photographs taken from space, listen to audio files of experts, and play interactive games. There are links to eThemes Resources on the solar system and space exploration.

#### Updated eThemes

##### Natural Disasters: Floods

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000027.html>

These sites explain what floods are and how they occur. View videos and photographs of these natural disasters and learn the effects they have on the land. There are links to eThemes Resources on the 1993 Midwest floods and relief efforts.

#### Writing: Personification

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000562.html>

These sites explain how to use personification to improve your writing. Includes definitions, numerous examples, and classroom activity ideas. There are also links to two eThemes Resources on other types of figurative language.